

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) October Minutes (Draft)

MEETING DETAILS	
Date and time:	October 16, 2019 from 10am to 2pm
Venue:	Conference Room @ VACSB Offices in Richmond, Virginia (10128 West Broad Street, Suite B, Glen Allen, VA 23060)
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
<i>Hayden Myer (Mental Health America of Virginia (MHAV): Administrative Agent for Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) of Virginia</i>	
Present	Katherine Hunter (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Patricia Parham (DOC); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Michael Gregory (DOE); Ron Pritchard (VSIAS/VAAP); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Bruce Cruser (MHAV); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Karen Kallay (Peer); Betsy Lalla (Peer); Jean Hoyt (DOH); William Hart (Peer); Shatada Floyd-White (Private Provider); Alethea Lambert (DBHDS), Kelsi Sober (SAARA)
Guest(s)	Jenn Paul (Parent Support, UMFS); Patrice Beard (Parent Support) ; Alethea Lambert (DBHDS Office of Recovery)
Unexcused Absences	Catharine Harrison (DARS); Gail Taylor (DBHDS); Sandra O'Dell (SA Services); Kathleen Levenston (Private Provider); Caitlin Reynolds (NAMI VA); Ashley Everette (Voices for VA's Children); Oketa Winn (DMAS)
Excused Absences	Gail Taylor, Oketa Winn, Robin Hairfield
Minutes Taken By	Hilary Piland (Secretary)
Presiding Officer	William Hart (BHAC President)
Order Called	Council convened at 10:10 AM

Quorum **was** present in today's meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment)			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Hart, Council President called the meeting to order at 10:10. William expressed his desire to focus on increasing membership on the council. He is working on pulling information from documents about this council from as far back as ten years ago. Some are very detailed and clearly lay out every function for this council and its committees. He expressed that this council has a lot of opportunity to influence state leadership and legislators. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William also suggested that this council increase its focus on advocacy and make sure elected officials and state leaders know that the BHAC is a resource to go to for questions and that a representatives from the BHAC should be involved when it comes to BH services in Virginia. Diedra Johnson asked that the council look at adding a membership requirement that representatives from the DD side be on the council. This is because it is common for an individual with DD to also have mental health challenges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathanial Rudney shared that the bylaws of this council require a review of the State Mental Health Plan. The addition of DD as a membership requirement might have to be addressed in the state plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OUTCOME: William Hart will have the Executive Council see if the state plan allows for adding DD family members as a membership requirement for the council.
Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the August 2019 meeting were approved unanimously. 	
Review of Final BHAC Letter Response			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathanial shared that the final letter from the Acting Commission of DBHDS on behalf of the BHAC went to SAMSHA. The link to the letter is here: http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/assets/doc/bh/mhs/2020-21-Combined-Block-Grants-Application.pdf . The letter is featured on pages 188-190. The council read over the letter. For public feedback, there was only one comment submitted to DBHDS and no one attended the public meeting that was held from 11 am to 1 pm. SAMSHA is reviewing the letter and the block grant and will come back to DBHDS with any questions. There are goals and objectives that DBHDS will have to report back on. The timeline for this is in the grant application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OUTCOME: Nathanael will try to get Benjamin Marks to work with the council on getting easy to understand information to the council members.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karen asked that we look at what type of documents and reports this council would like to receive from DBHDS and Nathaniel suggested the block grant subcommittee decide on this. ○ Benjamin Marks may be able to provide information to the council on how DBHDS is doing so far with the Block Grant benchmarks. 	
New Expectations for the BHAC			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ William Hart shared that since we only meet every other month, we need to have the subcommittees doing the work in between the full council meetings. He stressed that most the work should come from the subcommittees. William wants to really get the subcommittees productive, that way not every person needs to digest every part of what the council does. ○ William will share at the next meeting the role of each subcommittee. ○ He shared that the council has a lot of ability to be an influencer in policy and programs. ○ The council can request a BHAC representative be on other committees and workgroups related to BH, like the BH Redesign. Council members can visit facilities and programs and report back. ○ William's goal is to do a full court press in the next two months to get more members. ○ William Hart noted that the mission statement is broad. He suggested it be narrowed down and that the council develop missions/topics each year for advocacy. ○ Nathaniel offered to put together a document if the council picks key indicators that the council can review and learn more about and maybe advocate on. ○ Karen Kallay suggested we keep in mind the areas of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using Peers – which is a step of STEP – VA. 2. Reaching people in need from remote areas. 3. Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates. 	
		<p><u>Discussion on Opening the Meeting to Conference Call:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heather Orrock asked if people can call in. The council has looked into this through the years but hasn't navigated the FOIA barriers to doing this. 	<p>OUTCOME: Nathaniel Rudney will ask Karen Taylor if she can present to the council on FOIA or share with the council what its</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ron Pritchard motioned that we advertise that this meeting is open to the public and have a phone line open. ○ Alethea Lambert seconded that motion. ○ The motion was moved anonymously and was approved. ○ The committee then discussed that according to bylaws, proxy voting from phone is not allowed and people on the phone do not count toward a quorum. The council discussed changing the bylaws to say that if you are a member of the council, then you can vote by phone and count toward the quorum. ○ Karen shared that we would have to have the agenda online ahead of time if we provide conference call. ○ William noted that all the meetings, even subcommittee meetings are already public. ○ Allowing people to call in may be a good recruitment tool to increase membership especially from remote areas of the state. ○ Bruce noted that if the meeting is open, then there is supposed to be a public comment period on the agenda. ○ William shared that the council can start having rotating meeting sites across the state in order to have more people join and attend. ○ The committee decided open the meeting to conference call for the Dec. meeting, but knowing that people not attending in person cannot vote or count toward a quorum. ○ Bruce suggested the committee table the rest of this discussion till after it has heard from Karen Taylor. ○ Nathaniel asked that the membership issues be address as much as possible with the membership subcommittee, so it does not take so much time from the BHAC meeting. 	<p>options are as far as people calling into the meeting.</p> <p>OUTCOME: BHAC will plan to open the meeting to conference call but knowing that the people not attending cannot vote or count toward a quorum.</p>
Lunch			
Membership and Membership Application			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Orrock suggested that the membership application be electronic and online. • Betsy shared the final version of the membership application with the council. 	<p>OUTCOME: The council will look into getting the membership application online.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice Beard asked what the council does with the special experience skills question. Betsy goes through the application and talks with the new members about what area they would like to join under. William Hart asked that all new members have a copy of the procedures guide and manual. One of William Hart's goals for membership is to have all the subcommittees full. The council suggested that the membership application show when the council meets, the expectations, and the reimbursement options. 	<p>OUTCOME: Amend the membership application to show when the council meets, the expectations of the council, and the reimbursement options.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Amend the membership application to "Mark all that Apply" and take out the word "Interest"</p>
JLARC Recommendations & Upcoming Legislative Session		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Hart had asked Hilary Piland to share with the council the results of the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) study on the implementation of STEP – VA. Hilary noted that one of the JLARC recommendations is for the General Assembly to extend the deadline for all the remaining services to begin at CSBs until July 1, 2022. She explained that if the funding for the remaining steps of STEP – VA does not come this general assembly session, then the implementation date that is currently July of 2021 will need to be pushed back to July of 2022. Hilary informed the council that Same Day Access and Primary Care Screening has been implemented in all 40 CSBs. Also, CSBs have received \$15 M toward Outpatient Services. The remaining \$10 M needed for Outpatient Services is one of VACSB's budget priorities this year. Hilary explained that because the CSBs are seeing more and more new people coming into the CSB system of care through Same Day Access, that is creating a log jam in the demand of people referred for Outpatient Services. This is all the more reason to fund the remaining \$10 M needed for Outpatient Services. The council discussed that regarding STEP – VA, a council member should be on the STEP – VA planning committee called STAC. Alethea Lambert, who works with Mark Blackwell at DBHDS in the Office of Recovery Services, suggested William make a formal request to DBHDS 	<p>OUTCOME: William will speak to Alethea Lambert offline about if the BHAC should request to have a representative on the STEP - VA planning committee.</p>

that the BHAC have a representative on the STEP – VA planning committee. William can speak to Alethia offline about that approach.

Budget Priorities for Legislative Session:

- Nathanael asked if the BHAC would like to recommend the funding needed for STEP – VA as one of its priorities.
- Bruce made a motion that the BHAC support:
 1. Funding for STEP – VA
 2. Funding for the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program
 3. Funding to restore the funds to CSBs taken as a result of Medicaid Expansion
- Karen suggested at the next meeting we have a list of all the budget priorities the council is interested in and also that next year they be sent to committees earlier in the process.
- A motion was made to send a draft letter to the council to get its input on the following budget priorities:
 1. STEP- VA Funding
 2. Funding for the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program to address the workforce shortage
- Katherine Hunter seconded that motion
- There were no extensions. That motion was carried
- Ron Pritchard informed the council that one of the **Virginia Recovery Coalition's priorities** is to improve the pay for the Behavioral Health workforce. Also, they are focusing on reducing the paperwork for billing Medicaid and increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for certain services.
- William Hart suggested that the council decide how it wants to advocate. He asked that the council discuss this at the next meeting.
- Jenn Paul shared that she works for Family Support Partners and because it is paid by fee for service rather than a grant, the workforce training provided has only been just what was required for her job. She recently accessed trainings that are for Peer Recover Specialists but can also be for families or support partners. These trainings provide the skills that other trainings don't, and she was very impressed with them. DBHDS provided the funding for some of them. She shared that it is great to see DBHDS support this financially and it's great that DBHDS supports the work peer recovery

OUTCOME: The Executive Committee draft a letter for full Council review (asking for input on the budget priorities talked about during the meeting).

OUTCOME: Add to the December meeting's agenda to discuss having a subcommittee on advocacy.

		specialist do. She understands that it can be hard to justify fully investing in PRS because the reimbursement rate is so low, therefore PRS haven't always has the investment in skills development.	
Financial Report			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Hart reminded the group that the BHAC has funds to reimburse council members for lodging if they travel to attend the BHAC meetings. Also, mileage and the expenses to attend relevant conference and workshops can be reimbursed. If anyone knows of a conference or workshop happening in 2020 where the tuition can go ahead and be paid for in 2019, let Bruce or Hayden know. The council has approximately \$9,000 in its account and has only been spending about \$1,000 per quarter. Ron Pritchard shared that the Summer Institute for Addiction Studies will be in Williamsburg again next summer. He offered that if anyone wants to submit for the BHAC council to pay for his/her registration before this year ends then he can arrange for that. 			
December Meeting Discussion			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BHAC changed the December meeting date to December 4th 10 am – 2 pm. Katherine Hunter – suggested the BHAC have on the next agenda the “meeting objectives” on the agenda so we stay on track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECEMBER MEETING WAS CHANGED TO DECEMBER 4TH. IT WAS PREVIOUSLY DECEMBER 11TH

		Notes taken by Hilary Piland
	Meeting was adjourned at: 2:06PM	

Next Meeting(s):
December 4th (note: this is a change)

Location of meetings:
Conference Room @ VACSB Offices in Richmond, Virginia (10128 West Broad Street, Suite B, Glen Allen, VA 23060)

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON _____

DRAFT